

February 5, 2000

KM

Jane Henney, M.D.
Commissioner

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Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I strongly urge your agency to follow the European Union's lead and move immediately to ban animal uses of growth-promoting antibiotics used in human medicine.

Overuse of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock has been linked to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant diseases. Many of the drugs used to enhance growth in chickens, pigs and cattle are the same as, or closely related to, those used to treat people.

Feeling a rise in untreatable infectious diseases, the European Union banned all growth-promoting uses in human medicine. However, your agency has taken no action against drugs currently in use. Instead, it has merely begun a series of meetings to discuss possible restrictions on new approvals of antibiotics.

I remain, seeking to put public health ahead of commercial interests,

Claire Martinescu

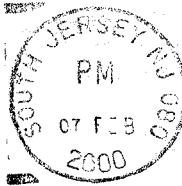
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